

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 7, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader, United States Senate  
United States Capitol, S-221  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid:

As you know, the American public has been paying close attention to the health care debates in both chambers of Congress. This important issue affects one-sixth of the American economy, and the changes made by Congress will affect every American family, individual, and business for years to come. Previous rhetoric about transparency has thus far amounted to broken promises to the American people.

In the coming weeks, we ask for increased transparency in the process of merging the House-passed bill and the Senate-passed bill. Closed door negotiations and unprecedented special provisions in exchange for votes do not meet the expectations of the American people. Numerous Senators have reiterated the need for transparency and the President himself noted in August of 2008 that:

"I'm going to have all the negotiations around a big table. We'll have doctors and nurses and hospital administrators. Insurance companies, drug companies -- they'll get a seat at the table, they just won't be able to buy every chair. But what we will do is, we'll have the negotiations televised on C-SPAN, so that people can see who is making arguments on behalf of their constituents, and who are making arguments on behalf of the drug companies or the insurance companies. And so, that approach, I think is what is going to allow people to stay involved in this process."

To ensure that the American people have the ability to witness the on-going negotiations between the House and Senate, we ask that any negotiations regarding a final health care reform bill be conducted in the light of day. The Chairman of C-SPAN, the network responsible for broadcasting the deliberations of Congress, has offered resources to cover all negotiation sessions live. We urge you to take him up on this offer.

We look forward to your response and the commitment that the American people can expect full transparency as you work with Speaker Pelosi and White House officials to merge the House and Senate-passed health care bills.

Sincerely,



Jim Lush

Tom Cohen

Mike Johnson

Olympic Snow

Mike Croy

Lee Kucharski

[Signature]

Steve J. Bennett

Lamar Alexander

Paul Cohen

Dmit Vitter

J. Th

[Signature]

Metib McConnell

Georg J. Mei

Sam Sankack

Tommy L

Art Bond

Boucarh

Jan O'Neil

Chuck Grassley

Phil B. Egi

John Cornyn

Bob Pitt

John Ensign

Judd Gregg

John Barrasso

Jim DeMint

Lyndie

Richard Shelby

Orin G. Hatch

Jim Bunning



Susan Collins

John McCain

Dick Lugar

Sally Chaudhry

George V. Voinovich

Jeff Sessions

Senator John Thune  
Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison  
Senator James Inhofe  
Senator Tom Coburn  
Senator Mike Johanns  
Senator Olympia Snowe  
Senator Mike Crapo  
Senator Lisa Murkowski  
Senator Richard Burr  
Senator Robert Bennett  
Senator Lamar Alexander  
Senator Thad Cochran  
Senator David Vitter  
Senator Lindsey Graham  
Senator Johnny Isakson  
Senator Mitch McConnell  
Senator George LiMieux  
Senator Sam Brownback  
Senator Jon Kyl  
Senator Christopher Bond  
Senator Bob Corker  
Senator James Risch  
Senator Chuck Grassley  
Senator Mike Enzi  
Senator John Cornyn  
Senator Pat Roberts  
Senator John Ensign  
Senator Judd Gregg  
Senator John Barrasso  
Senator Jim DeMint  
Senator Roger Wicker  
Senator Richard Shelby  
Senator Orrin Hatch  
Senator Jim Bunning  
Senator Susan Collins  
Senator John McCain  
Senator Richard Lugar  
Senator Saxby Chambliss  
Senator George Voinovich  
Senator Jeff Sessions